

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heat transfer sheet comprising:

a substrate;

a light-heat conversion layer; and

5 an image forming layer,

wherein the light-heat conversion layer comprises polyamide-imide as a binder and a colorant having a water content of 3% by weight or more as measured under a condition of 23°C and 60% RH.

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2. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the light-heat conversion layer comprises 0.04 to 0.16 g/m² of the colorant as measured under conditions of 23°C and 60% RH.

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3. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the light-heat conversion layer comprises polyamide-imide in a proportion of at least 30% by weight based on a total amount of binders in the light-heat conversion layer.

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4. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the light-heat conversion layer comprises polyamide-imide in a proportion of at least 50% by weight based on a total amount of binders in the light-heat conversion layer.

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5. A method for forming a multicolor image comprising

the steps of:

superposing the heat transfer sheet according to claim
1 on an image receiving sheet with the image forming layer of
the heat transfer sheet facing the image receiving sheet; and
5 imagewise irradiating the superposed heat transfer sheet
with laser light to cause the light-heat conversion layer to
generate gas thereby lifting and transferring the irradiated
area of the image forming layer to the image receiving sheet
in the form of a thin film.

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6. The method according to claim 5, comprising the steps
of:

superposing each of at least four heat transfer sheets
different in color, each of the heat transfer sheet comprising
15 a substrate, a light-heat conversion layer and an image forming
layer, in which the light-heat conversion layer comprises
polyamide-imide as a binder and a colorant having a water content
of 3% by weight or more as measured under a condition of 23°C
and 60% RH, on an image receiving sheet comprising a substrate
20 and an image receiving layer with the image forming layer of
the heat transfer sheet facing the image receiving layer of the
image receiving sheet;

imagewise irradiating the superposed heat transfer sheet
with laser light; and
25 transferring the irradiated area of the image forming layer

to the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet to record an image.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the
5 irradiated area of the image forming layer is transferred to the image receiving sheet in the form of a thin film.

8. A multicolor image forming material comprising:
an image receiving sheet comprising a substrate and an
10 image receiving layer; and
at least four heat transfer sheets different in color, each of the heat transfer sheet comprising a substrate, a light-heat conversion layer and an image forming layer, wherein the light-heat conversion layer comprises polyamide-imide as
15 a binder and a colorant having a water content of 3% by weight or more as measured under a condition of 23°C and 60% RH,
wherein each of the heat transfer sheets are adapted to be superposed on the image receiving sheet with the image forming layer facing the image receiving layer and irradiated with laser
20 light to transfer the irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image receiving layer to record an image.

9. The multicolor image forming material according to claim 8, wherein the image forming layer has a thickness of 0.01
25 to 0.9 μ m.

10. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 8, wherein the image transferred to the image receiving
layer has a resolution of 2400 dpi or higher.

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11. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 8, wherein the image transferred to the image receiving
layer has a resolution of 2600 dpi or higher.

10 12. The multicolor image forming material according to
claim 8, wherein the at least four heat transfer sheets include
a yellow, a magenta, a cyan, and a black heat transfer sheet.